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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ADANA 000139

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JULY 12, 2005

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for July 12, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. ZAMAN: Chris Bradley, an officer from the UK Embassy in Ankara and Hakon Arald, an officer from Norwegian Embassy in Ankara, were not allowed to observe the court session which is trying six children who allegedly attempted to burn the Turkish flag during the Newruz celebrations DEHAP organized in Mersin on March 20. The court decided that the session be postponed to a later date.

3. HURRIYET/ZAMAN: PKK terrorists allegedly stopped cars on the Tunceli-Pulumur road at around 6 p.m. yesterday and robbed the passengers of their money and valuable belongings. Terrorists allegedly kidnapped a soldier from one of the cars on the road as well.

4. ZAMAN: The Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, through the Subgovernor's Office in the Kadirli district of Osmaniye, gave 58 Holstein breed cows of to 29 families with soft financing.

5. SABAH (GUNEY): The Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, through a Subgovernor's Office in Gaziantep province, delivered 30 NTL to mothers to "buy milk." A lot of women formed long queues and waited for hours in front of the bank that delivered the aid.

6. EKSPRES/BOLGE/ZAMAN: Cukurova Journalists' Association (CJA) requested clarification on one item of the New Penal Code from the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Law. The law, item 183, reportedly bars operation of audio/visual recording devices during court sessions and transmission of these recordings through communication devices, but reportedly allows taking photographs if the judge permits to do so. CGA wants to remove any ambiguity and make sure that taking photographs rests at the discretion of the judges.

7. OZGUR GUNDEM: Following the fire as allegedly set on the Gabar Mountain, fires allegedly were set in 8 places at the Cudi Mountains in Sirkak. The daily reports that officials have not attempted to extinguish the fires yet. According to the daily, a military operation was launched in the Cudi Mountains following the blast incident involving a truck hitting an explosive on the road (see press summary 07/11).

8. OZGUR GUNDEM: A group calling itself the "South Kurdistan Youth Movement" demanded the withdrawal of Turkish soldiers from locations in northern Iraq, where Turkish army has reportedly been deployed since 1992.

9. HURRIYET/OZGUR GUNDEM: Ozgur Gundem reports that two terrorists were killed and another two were captured alive in the conflict that occurred between the Dargecit district of Mardin and the Idil district of Sirkak. The people in the region reportedly fear that the two terrorists were facing death. Hurriyet, in contrast, notes that one terrorist was killed in Dargecit. Two terrorists, who were caught alive in Dargecit and brought before the court, confessed that they would conduct a bomb attack on the Idil Jandarma Command, notes Hurriyet.

10. CUMHURİYET/EVRENSEL/OZGUR GUNDEM: Security officials are conducting identity checks at the Erzurum province entry points after receiving intelligence about four assailants trying to commit a bomb attack on Erzurum public building.

11. OZGUR GUNDEM: Terrorists reportedly told Mesopotamian News Agency that the PKK allegedly killed five soldiers and wounded 15 others during separate attacks on military convoys in the Cukurca and Yuksekova districts in Hakkari. Reportedly, PKK claimed responsibility for the attack on the police post in the Hozat district of Tunceli (see press summary 07/11).

12. CUMHURİYET/EVRENSEL: Some (unspecified) NGOs that gathered in the Tunceli square, making a announcement which claimed that JITEM (Jandarma Intelligence Center) members kidnapped Bulent Yilmaz in the Ovacik district of Tunceli a day ago, tortured him and then released him.

13. EVRENSEL/OZGUR GUNDEM: Diyarbakir DEHAP provincial party

organization commemorated Vedat Aydin, HEP (People's Labor Party) Provincial Chairperson, who was killed in 1991. The perpetrator has not been found to date, note the papers.

14. SABAH (GUNEY): The findings that were unearthed with the joint efforts of Hatay Governor's Office and U.S. State Department at the Kinet excavation site are being exhibited in Hatay's Archaeological Museum.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Nejat Kocer, Chairperson of Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce, said that Gaziantep ranked the first in the southeastern region and ranked eighth in all over Turkey in exports.